Pennsylvania German Settlements As An Economic Factor in the American War for Independence

By EDWARD G. DIEHL

(Upon the occasion of the two hundredth Anniversary of the birth of George Washington in 1932 an Academic Prize Essay Contest for American and German students was conducted. In this contest American and German students of nearly 1600 colleges and universities in the United States and Germany participated. John Joseph Stoudt of Allentown, Pa., was given first place among American contestants for his essay THE GERMAN PRESS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, which was printed in the ECK for July 18 and 25, and Aug. 1, 1936.—In that same contest Edward G. Diehl, of Lehighton, Pa., who was then a student at Muhlenberg College, was granted fifth place for the essay which we herewith offer to our readers.)

Had it not been for the Pennsylvania Germans the Thirteen Original Colonies would never have freed themselves from England!

That may seem, perhaps, to be a rather bold statement, but it is hoped that this paper will conclusively prove that it is true that these victims of religious persecution in the German Palatinate were the ones who made it possible for the colonies in America to defeat their "mother country" and set up a nation of their own.

It would be well at this point to set forth something about the nature of this sturdy group of pioneers who believe and follow couplets like this:

Erwerben und sparen zugleich
Macht am gewissesten reich.

(He that earns and saves will be
Rich for certain, you shall see.)

Im kleinsten Raum pflanz einen Baum
Und pflege sein, er bringt dir's ein.

(In the smallest space, a fruit tree place,
Attend it well, have fruit to sell.) (1)

We know that during the Revolutionary War the German immigrants and their descendants were well represented on the entire frontier from Maine to Georgia. Nearly one-half of the whole number, estimated by some at 110,000, was located in Pennsylvania. The Germans in Pennsylvania formed a solid background for the whole war.

"Benjamin Rush, the distinguished Philadelphia physician and publicist, one of the signers of the Declaration of Indepndence, wrote in 1879 a description of the Germans of Pennsylvania which would apply generally to all German settlements at that time and to any of subsequent date. 'The Pennsylvania German farmer,' he says, 'was distinguished above everything else for his self-denying thrift, housing his horses and cattle in commodious warm barns, while he and his family lived in a log hut until he was able to afford a more comfortable house;' selling his 'most profitable grain, which is wheat' and eating that which is less profitable, but more nourishing, that is, rye or Indian corn, breeding the best livestock so that 'a German horse is known in every part of the State' for his 'extraordinary size or fat;' clearing his land thoroughly, not 'as his English or Irish neighbors;' cultivating the most bountiful gardens and orchards; living frugally, working constantly, fearing God and debt, and rearing large families. 'A German farm may be distinguished,' concludes this writer, 'from the farms of other citizens by the superior size of their barns, the plain but compact form of their houses, the height of their enclosures, the extent of their fields, the fertility of their fields, the luxuriance of their meadows, and a general appearance of plenty and neatness in everything that belongs to them.'

"Rush's praise of the German mechanics is no less stinted. They were found in that day mainly as 'weavers, taylors, tanners, shoemakers, combmakers, smiths, butchers, paper-makers, watchmakers, and sugar-bakers.'" (2)

This can be substantiated by summarizing the industries of Lancaster, Pennsylvania—with a then population of 4,200—and lying in the heart of the Pennsylvania German section. In 1789 just a few years after the war, the city boasted of

"14 hatters, 36 shoemakers, 4 tanners, 17 saddlers, 25 tailors, 22 butchers, 25 weavers, 25 blacksmiths, 12 public bakers, 30 carpenters, 11 coopers, 6 dyers, 7 gunsmiths, 5 ropemakers, 5 tinners, 2 brass founders, 3 skin-dressers, 1 brushmaker, 7 turners, 7 nailors, 5 silversmiths, 3 potters, 3 coppermiths, 3 breweries, 3 brickyards, 3 printing presses, and 40 houses of public entertainment." (3)

"Dr. Rush does not directly mention the valuable services of the Pennsylvania Germans in the Revolutionary War. He may not have deemed it advisable to stir up old memories in the hearts of those to whom he was writing, as this would interfere with his commendation of the Germans to a portion of the English in Pennsylvania. His own memories and sufferings in the War of the Revolution may have deterred him from alluding to it, and the period in which he was now writing was that in which the thought of reconstruction, and not of warfare was uppermost, and he, therefore, emphasizes the virtues of the Germans with reference to this first constitutional period." (4)

"Pennsylvania took the lead of all the colonies in agriculture owing to the great number of Germans settling in the Province; and Governor Thomas as early as 1738 wrote: 'This Province has been for some years the asylum of the distressed Protestants of the Palatinate and other parts of Germany, and I believe it may with truth be said that the present flourishing condition of it is in a great measure owing to the industry of those people. It is not altogether the goodness of the soil, but the number and industry of the people that make a flourishing colony'.

As stated before, the first settlers were staid farmers. Their mutual wants produced mutual independence, hence they were kind and friendly to each other; they were ever hospitable to strangers. Their want of money in the early times made it necessary for them to associate for the purpose of building houses, cutting their grain, etc. This they did in turn for each other without any other pay than the pleasure which usually attended a country frolic. Strictly speaking, what are attributed to them as virtues might be called good qualities, arising from necessity and the peculiar state of society in which our people lived—patience, industry and temporance." (5)

When we come to the Revolutionary period, the charge is often made that during the memorable struggle the majority of Germans were non-combatants or favorable to the crown. To quote Sydney George Fisher:

"During the winter of 1777-1778 the patriots must have been very few in number in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; for during that winter Washington's small force of less than nine thousand men almost starved to death at Valley Forge. They were surrounded in every direction by a rich farming country. The British army of twenty thousand shut up in Philadelphia relied chiefly on ships which brought supplies up the river. But the farmers of the surrounding country voluntarily brought and sold their supplies to the British in Philadelphia, leaving the patriot army to starve. The few provisions Washington had, were obtained by raiding these loyalist supply-wagons on their way to Philadelphia and by sending far to the south in Virginia and the Carolinas." (6)

C. H. Van Tyne says:

"A keen observer (Curwen's Journal p. 26) thought that the Quakers and Germans, a large element of Pennsylvania's population, had too great regard for ease and property to sacrifice either upon the altar of the unknown goddess, Liberty." (7)

"Nothing can be farther from the truth. Granted that many of the German settlers in Pennsylvania were non-combatants, and from religious convictions refused to bear arms, this fact did not make them traitorous or antagonistic to the patriot cause.

"The main sects or denominations in question were the Seventh Day Baptists (Schwenkfelders), Moravians and Mennonites.

"Now who was it that kept the fighting army in the field?

"It was just this contingent of peaceful Germans in Pennsylvania—heroes none the less. As a matter of history the commissary stores during the most critical periods of the struggle were mostly all supplied by these same Pennsylvania German non-combatants.

"The men and farms supplied the subsistence for man and beast while the women furnished the clothing, quilts, and stockings for the soldiers. It is even said that such of the women who were too old to sew or knit, picked the lint and made bandages for the wounded.

"Further, when after disastrous battles the buildings and institutions of these people were seized by the military authorities and turned into hospitals, and peaceful occupants forced to seek shelter where best they could, as was the case at Ephrata, Bethlehem, Lititz and elsewhere, was there an objection? No, they accepted the situation without a murmur, and both men and women as ministers of mercy attended the sick and dying, no matter how loathsome or pestilential the disease, in many cases sacrificing their own health and lives for humanity's sake.

"This was another example of the true heroism on the part of the German settler in Pennsylvania. No one ever heard these people asking for any fee or reward or claiming damages for losses sustained, as did the Chester County Quakers or Philadelphia Tories, although the buildings on account of the deadly typhus or camp fever, were unfitted for their original uses and (in many cases) had to be destroyed or abandoned to other purposes." (8)

"The Pennsylvania German non-combatants have never received the praise to which they are entitled for their noble deeds during th Revolution.

"By this term we do not mean, alone, those who, by chance, failed to be among the many who bore arms, but, especially, those whose religious principles fobade them to resist force by means of force, and to whom military service became a sin against their religion, and, as they believed, contrary to the Word of God.

"Persecuted and maligned, because of their belief, accused even of being traitors to their country and of aiding, abetting and harboring its enemies, they pursued, unmoved, their course, and, by deed, instead of word, by example, rather than precept, have proven to this generation, if none other, the pureness of the motives by which they were actuated, and the unexcelled depth of their patriotism.

"There is no grander tale of the war than that which relates to the sacrifices made by the Pennsylvania German Moravians and Mystics in caring for the sick and wounded soldiers who were placed in their hospitals. It is not only grand but it is unique, for we hear of no similar occurrence elsewhere." (9)

"Some forty miles to the north of Philadelphia was the village of Bethlehem, where a colony of Moravians had been planted by Count Zinzendorf himself. Here, for a generation back, these exemplary people had lived in modest plenty under a strict form of Christian Socialism. There, rule forbade them to bear arms; but none the less, did they play an honorable part in the national drama. On the eve of Trenton, in December 1776, Washington ordered the General Hospital of the Continental Army to be established at Bethlehem." (10)

And then this British historian continues with an account of the overcrowding of this hospital, the disease prevalent, and how the Moravians used many of their own supplies—a glowing tribute by a descendant of the defeated nation to members of the victorious group.

"The experiences of the 'Kloster' people at Ephrata during the Revolutionary War were destined to be both varied and severe. The first trial came at the very outbreak of hostilities in the shape of a demand for cartridge paper. A number of protests were made by residents within and outside the 'Kloster' that it would commit the Community and might lead to evil consequences in the event of the English army coming into the vicinity. 'So it was resolved not to give up anything voluntarily, but that it would have to be taken by force'. This stand at once brought a visit of the commissary sergeant with a detail of soldiers and two wagons. They at once confiscated all copies of the great Martyr-book still on hand, after making prompt payment for the value of the paper.

"A few days after the battle of Brandywine, October, 1777, the peaceful 'Kloster' confine was again invaded by the military, and it was doomed to become the scene of the most ghastly side of warfare.

"Several of the large houses upon Zion Hill were seized by the soldiery for hospital purposes. The houses, saals and corridors, which for years had resounded to words of prayer, songs of praise and sweet music of sacred anthems, and witnessed the administration of sacred ordinances, were now filled with the groans of agony and pain, while the air was heavy with the exhalations of the wounded and victims of camp fever."

The following account of this episode was taken from the address made by Julius Sachse at the celebration of Patriot's Day, September 11th, 1895:

"The Battle of Brandywine was fought on Chester County's fruitful field, September 11th, 1777, resulting in the retreat of Washington and deciding the fate of Philadelphia. When the question arose that night at Chester what to do with the large number of sick and wounded soldiers, it was Washington who suggested sending at once all who could bear transportation to Ephrata. Why the Commander-in-chief did this is easily explained.

"He knew the Prior Jaebez personally, and was well satisfied of his devotion to the patriot cause. He also knew that the pious men and women here would tenderly care for the unfortunate patriots who were sent sick and maimed. No sooner was the order decided upon than means were taken to carry it out without delay. It did not take long to fill both Kammers and Saal, as the stream of wagons seemed to be almost endless, and in less than a week Kedar and Zion were filled with hundreds of suffering patriots.

"History is silent as to the many acts of self-denial and charity of these God-fearing men and women while alleviating the pain and misery of the patriots. After years of careful search, I have failed to find a single record of complaint from these humble heroes, or one setting forth any account of their losses or personal sufferings.

"In addition to the great personal risks run, and sacrifices made by the different individuals who composed the Ephrata Community, almost everything was taken from the society upon the requisition of the quartermaster sergeants who came around with surprising regularity. The paper and books in printing office were taken to make cartridges, and so great was the demand for paper that upon subsequent visits even the hymn and prayer-books were taken from the Saal. The quilts and blankets in the Sisterhouse were seized for the convalescent soldiers, and the stores of grain were sent to replenish the commissary department of the main army while upon the bleak hills of Valley Forge.

"For all this property that was taken or destroyed, (as a matter of fact both Zion and Kedar, on account of the infection had to be demolished after they ceased to be hospitals) for the vast amount of stores given and taken, for the personal sacrifices made, the services and medicines furnished, and the burial of dead, not a single shilling was ever asked or received by the Ephrata Community, so far as I know, from the government of either state or nation." (11)

These two instances do not account, entirely for all the hospital aid which was given by Pennsylvania Germans, for, we know that Easton, Allentown, Nazareth, Lititz, Lebanon, Lancaster and many other towns did their part during the Revolutionary period.

1. Rush Benjamin. Manners of the German Inhabitants of Pennsylvania. 1789. p. 30.
2. Johnson, Allen. Our Foreigners, (The Chronicles of America) 1920. pp. 127-129.
3. Klein. H. M. J Lancaster's Golden Century. p. 18.
4. Schmauck. Theodore. Who are the Pennsylvania Germans? 1910.
5. Egle. William H.. (Annual Address) Proceedings of the Pennsylvania German Society. Vol. II. 1819-1892, pp. 15-16.
6. Fisher. Sidney George. The True History of the American Revolution. 1902. pp. 235-236.
7. Van Tyne. C. H.. The American Revolution. 1905. p. 74.
8. Sachse. Julius (The Heroes of Provincial Pennsylvania) P. P. G. S. Vol. II. 1891-1892. pp. 115-116.
9. Richards. H. M. M. (The Pennsylvania German in the Revolutionary War) P. P. G. S., Vol. XVII. pp. 339-340.
10. Trevelyan Sir George O., The American Revolution, 1913. pp. 298-299.
11. Sachse. Julius Friedrich. The German Sectarians of Pennsylvania, 1742-1800. pp. 421-422.

To Be Concluded

MAERZ

Geburtsmonet Kalenner

Der Mannskerl wu in dem Monet gebora is, quckt so schlick as wann er juscht aus ra Bandbox g'schlupt waer. O mei, was a scheener Buh! Er gebt awer ah en ehrlicher, dummer Jockel, wu sei Lebdag zu nix kummt.

'S Weibsmensch gebt a verdollt wiescht speitvoll Babbelmaul, wu ihr Nas iwerall in anner Leit Bisness neisteckt.

—Unser Pennsylvanisch-Deitscher Kalenner 1908

Dunnert's im Maerz, schneet's im Moi

Uff der eenunzwaensichscht Maerz
Macht mer als die Zwiwwle naus;
Deel sin lang un deel sin kaerz,
Doch sie gewwe recht gut aus.

—JOHN BIRMELIN

We have at various times called attention to the extensive settlement of Pennsylvania Germans in Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada, where they have continued since the last decades of the 18th century the traditions and the dialect of their forefathers.—Mr. Elias H. Good, the author of "The Pennsylvania German Settlers in Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada" (ECK, April, 4, 11, and 18, 1936), continues to write a weekly column in the dialect for the KITCHENER DAILY RECORD under the title of "Der Daade un sei Buh," and informs us that his column is not only widely read in Ontario, but is also copied by other papers in Ontario.

Mr. Good has recently sent us some sketches of which we offer the following to our readers. It can readily be seen that the Pennsylvania Germans in Waterloo County, Ontario, do not differ essentially from their kin in Pennsylvania. Nor does the dialect differ materially despite the long separation of nearly a century and a half from the mother stock. The article is reprinted without any alterations either in content or spelling.

Der Daade Un Sei Buh

Am Neu-johr Owet hen des Pit Snider's e Party g'hat, es war ah em Pit sei Geburtzdag, 60 Jahr alt. Sie hen viel Leit eigelaade, dann des hot so e zimliche "high-up" affair sei solle. Ihre zwee Meed sin Graduates vun der "High School" un schaffe jetz Office Erwet, drage ihre Naase e wennig hoch, well sie jetz "City Girls" sin, un weil sie e high tone feeling hen, welle sie sich abweise wie mer so "high-flootin Fashion Partys gebbe dut.

Des Haus war ufg'fixt als wann es fer e Hochzig sei kennt, un fer die Wohret zu sage, ich un die Mamme hen gar net recht daheem g'fiehlt, es war zu groszartig fer uns.

Wel, sie hen a'gfange Speeches zu mache, als ehn noch dem annere hot der Pit "congratulate" dass er sechzig erlangt hot, un hoffe dass er noch viel mehner Geburtzdage erleebt.

Weil jeder vun der Mannsleit ebbes g'sad hen, hot die Mamme zu mir g'mehnt, "die rai is now an dir." Well, ich bin ufg'stanne, hab ge zittert in meiner Beh, hab net gewisst was zu sage, awwer endlich hab a'g'fange—es war about wie des;

"Ich bin kenn Speechmacher, awwer ich kann aus erfahrung sage dass der Pit e gute Fraa hot, sie schafft hardt un is sparsam; sie kocht ihm gut, oder wer er net so fett; er hot noch welters ke runzele, wo beweis is dass sei Fraa ihm ke druwwel macht; sie loszt ihn schmoke im Haus, sell weiszt sie hot e gut Herz. Sie is a net wiescht zu ihm, unscht wer er en Blutkop wie ich schun lang ehner bin—Potz Blitz, die Mamme hot mich am Rockschwantz verwischt, un mich uf mei Stuhl nunner ge'jerked das ses mei Lewwer bal verrisse hot, un hot g'sad, "Des is em Pit sei Geburtzdag—net seiner Fraa ihre! Well sir, die Leit hen all g'lacht, un ich musz sage, ich wees net fer wass.

Well, die Leit sin not all nuf un hen hands g'shaked mit dem Pit, sei Fraa war neewe ihm, un sie hot zu mir g'sad, "Dei Speech war die bescht vun der ganz lot."

Noch dem, do sin em Pit sei zwee Meed rum kumme, hen so Babblerige dinger, ich mehn sie hen sie "lapkins" g'heese, hen jeders ehns gewwe fer uf die Beh, du, un no hen sie en Deller gewwe fer uf's "lapdings" du. Sie hen g'sad, "des is e "Buffel" Lunch, ebbes so wie sell hen sie es g'heese. Sie hen no Sankwitches, tuche un Kaffee gebrocht, un ich hab e furchbare Hit ghat fer des Sach all uf meiner Beh halte. Die Mamme hot g'mehnt ich soll mich net so lappig un efeltig a'schicke, un weil sie mei attention eweck g'numme hot vun des Sach watche, is mir doch die ganz wicks abgerutscht uf der Bolle, der Kaffee mit.

Well, des war e Elend! Es is no e Meedel rei kumme, hot der Krahm ufgepicked, un mit eme Lumpe der Kaffee ufgebutzt. Die Mamme hot die ganz zeit gewettert as ich so en Dabsack bin, awwer ich hab ihre g'sad, wann ich's Sach uf em Disch g'hat het, dann wer des net passiert, un der "high style" war ewwer e wennig zu hoch fer mich.

Noch seller "Buffel" Lunch, hen die Leit all mitnanner Lieder gesunge, un dem Pit sei zwee Meed hen no ah g'sunge, Solos un Duetts, mehn ich hen's sie es g'heese. Mei! Was war des e gegrisch! Ich hab g'mehnt es musz ihre die ganz insides vereise so wie die gegrische hen.

Noch her hen die Meed Candies rum ge-passed. Die Mamme hot kenne g'numme, sie hot e paar hohle Zeh, un des sies Candy macht ihre Zahweh. Sie hot mich no g'frogt, fer ihre e paar vun meine Lickerisch Candy gewwe wo ich im Sach hab. Ich hab ihre gewwe, glei druf hot sie ihre G'sicht wiescht verzoge, hot a'g'fange zu spaue, un huschte, hot schrecklich gedu. Ich hab sie g'frogt was letz is. Hoscht du es in der letz Hals grickt? Sie hot juscht, "Oh dear, oh dear" g'sad. Ich hab ihre uf der Buckel geklopt un sie hot der Finger in der Halz g'steckt, alles hot nix gebatt, sie juscht als "Oh dear, oh dear me" g'sad, gespaut un gehuscht, Endlich hot sie g'sad, "Ach Daade, Daade, was bin ich so krank.

Ich bin so dermlich, die ganz Stub fliegt rum! Bring mir e drink Wasser. Nemmt mich naus, ich musz frische Luft hawwe.

Mir hen sie naus, un ich hab sie not g'frogt was dann letz is?

"Ei" hot sie g'sad, "Du misserawlicher Ding, hoscht jo e stickle Duwack bei deim Lickerisch g'hatt."

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Conclusion

"Because the Pennsylvania Germans did open wide their hearts, homes, and hands, generally without reward or recompense, without thanks, without praise, without even a suitable acknowledgement of their deeds in the histories which their own descendants are taught in their own schools, we are what we are today, the greatest republic on the face of the earth, or in the history of the world.

"The darkest days of the Revolution came in the years 1776, 1777 and 1778 with the defeat at Long Island, the capture of Fort Washington, the defeat at Brandywine, the capture of Philadelphia and the miscarriage of all plans at Germantown. It was then that our noble forefathers without food, and starving, without clothing and freezing, still clung to the cause for which they were willing to lay down their lives; it was then that Washington, with a feeble remnant of his army, while chased about like the hunted hare, watched his opportunity to strike a feeble blow here and there; it was then that men were dying, by the score, on the bleak hills of Valley Forge; and it was during these dark days of these dark years that the American Army found its refuge on the borders of the Pennsylvania German counties of our state, from which it drew its supplies of all characters, and to which it sent its sick and wounded to be nursed to life." (12)

"The sufferings at Valley Forge, because of its exposed position, were unavoidable, and the position was likewise unavoidable, as it was absolutely necessary that the enemy should be confined to its winter quarters in Philadelphia and prevented from ravaging the rich farming districts in the interior. Here in the cities of Reading, Lancaster and elsewhere, Washington had collected such stores as he could. Were he to withdraw his troops from the vicinity of Philadelphia, this material would become exposed to capture. Worse than that, the fertile country from whence these supplies were derived would have been lost to him, and with this loss would have followed, in due time, the failure of his efforts to hold together the army, and to prevent the enemy from then and there accomplishing his desired purpose of bringing the war to a speedy and successful end.

"The men who owned these farms, and who lived in these towns, were our ancestors, (asserts Richards) and like ourselves, not only Pennsylvania Germans but patriots as well. If the Continental Army at Valley Forge had been obliged to depend upon Congress alone for its care and sustenance, its soldiers would have been either dead or dispersed long before the cruel winter was over and the warm days of spring had caused its snow to disappear. Under Providence, however, it fell to the lot of the Pennsylvania German to take up the work where Congress had so woefully failed, to care for the army in its day of greatest need, and thus, even though indirectly, to save the country and the cause of freedom then hanging in the balance.

"Committees were appointed which were on continual duty during the entire encampment. Day after day, and week after week, they went almost literally from door to door throughout the counties in which our fathers lived, accompanied by wagons into which the donations were loaded, and, as filled, forwarded to the army. Greatly impoverished as he had already become because of visits and encampments of troops during the manoeuvering just subsequent to the battle of Brandywine, the Pennsylvania German farmer still willingly gave of the products of his ground, while the Pennsylvania matron sacrificed the fruits of her labor at the loom in the form of blankets and clothing, and the Pennsylvania German theosophic community at Ephrata supplied the paper for cartridges when the unbound leaves of their great work, the MARTYR BOOK, were seized for that purpose. The flour for the troops came from the Pennsylvania German mills, while the cannon with their cannon balls, were largely the product of Pennsylvania German foundries and furnaces. They supplied quantities of powder, flints, shoes, and cartridge-boxes. Merely to carry the articles which were furnished necessitated the employment of many hundreds of wagons, with their horses and accompanying drivers. Are we not justified in believing and stating that it was because of the patriotic sacrifices made by the Pennsylvania German that the continued encampment at Valley Forge became a possibility?" (13)

"Not only were these supplies, which could have been obtained from no other source, given cheerfully and unsparingly, but, at all times of the war, the same good work was kept up in the same manner, even though under different conditions.

"The extent of the sacrifices on the part of the Pennsylvania Germans and the actual quantity of the material thus supplied by them will never be known, but we do know that, by them, the army was kept together, and the independence of our country assured." (14)

Mr. Richards continues with a lengthy account, going into details regarding the various Pennsylvania counties settled chiefly by Germans, and their various industries, e. g., Chester County with its Warwick Furnace produced many cannon and cannon-balls; Montgomery County was represented by the Valley Forge and Pennypacker's Mills; in Northampton County were many grist and flour mills; Lancaster County supplied large stores of powder and lead and controlled many forges and establishments manufacturing clothing.

"During the Revolution many army supplies were either manufactured or produced in the County of Berks, more especially in the years 1775, 1776, and 1777; and these were collected from several townships and deposited at Reading, for the purpose of enabling the Commissioners of Forage to fill the proportional allotments of the district with reasonable dispatch. They consisted of grain, flour, hay, powder, clothing, accoutrements, horses and wagons.

"The superior geographical situation of Reading led Congress to select the place as a general depot for the storing of supplies of all kinds. It was far enough from Philadelphia so that General Howe could not entertain any thoughts of capturing the stores with safety to his army, and yet it was near enough to enable the storekeeper to promptly fill orders made upon him.

"The following items were found relating to the supplies that were manufactured in Berks County and forwarded in pursuance of orders given by the Executive Council:

'February 22, 1776—An order for 90 pounds was drawn to pay John Reithmyer, John Deissler, and Peter Brecht for 150 cartridge boxes, etc., which they manufactured in Berks County and supplied to the Committee. On May 8, an order for 108 pounds, 15 shillings, was drawn to them to pay for 150 more.

'May 16, 1777—Colonel Morgan reported that orders had been issued for collecting the allotted number of blankets in the county for the continental service, and also 300 for the county militia. He made inquiry about arms and found that about 150 with accoutrements could be procured at Reading, which might be made fit for service in a fortnight; as to drums, colors and fifes, none had yet been collected. He then made an estimate that $3200 would be necessary to purchase blankets and carry the militia law into execution and asked that this amount be remitted to him immediately.

'July 22, 1776—An order was drawn in favor of Michael Bright (a county commisisoner), for 600 pounds to pay for firelocks made in Berks County for the Province.

'John Mears, of Berks County, carried on the manufacture of saltpetre. On February 9, 1776, James Biddle was directed to supply him with 100 pounds for that purpose, taking good security for the money and providing for the delivery of saltpetre to that amount in twelve months. Mears lived at Reading and subsequently became a captain in the 4th Regiment of the Continental Line of Pennsylvania.

'Isaac Levan, Jr., was one of the persons appointed by the Committee of Berks County to purchase arms for the use of the province, and on April 9, 1776, an order for 19 pounds, 12 shillings, was drawn in favor of Dr. Jonathan Potts for repairing 9 muskets which belonged to the province. These muskets were ordered to be delivered to Captain Thomas Herbert, of Berks County, who was then in the service of the province. He lived at Reading.

'July 2, 1776—An order for 300 pounds was drawn in favor of George Ege for 100 tons of cannon balls.

'June 14, 1777—Morgan was directed to supply the state with 30 wagons as quota from the county.

'May 22, 1777—An order was drawn to Colonel Jacob Morgan for 600 pounds for blankets and paying substitutes in the county. On June 10th, another order was drawn to him for 500 pounds, and at the same time an order for 150 stand of arms and 1500 flints; and on the 12th, an order was drawn to him for 150 knapsacks and cartridge boxes, and 250 canteens, for the county militia.

'February 19, 1778—A report was made to the Executive Council that Colonel Mark Bird had sent by water to Philadelphia 1000 barrels of flour during some time previous.

'November 14, 1780—George Ege, then lessee of Berkshire Furnace, supplied the National Government with shot and shell, amounting to 2894 pounds.

'In 1777, the proportion of grain for horse feed from Berks County was 4,000 bushels.

'January 15, 1778—Congress ordered 8000 barrels of flour to be deposited at or near Reading.

'January 30, 1778—The county was ordered to furnish 50 wagons for immediate service of the army as her quota of 250 wagons.

'February 10, 1778—Colonel Lutterloh reported to General Washington that he found a considerable quantity of clothing collected at Reading, waiting for an order to be sent forward.

'May 18, 1778—The quota of tax levied from Berks County for the year 1778, for the purposes of war was 16,544 pounds.

'July 13, 1779—Colonel Jacob Morgan, Jr. was required to purchase and forward immediately to Philadelphia 500 barrels of flour for the use of the officers of the Continental Line.

'In April, 1780, the Executive Council was directed by General Washington to furnish the State out of the supplies at Reading, with the following articles: 200 barrels of flour; 500 gallons of rum; 180 tons of hay; and 14,000 bushels of corn'. (15)

"There were other industries that are equally worthy of mention such as numerous grist mills, saw mills, gun factories, wheelwright shops and blacksmith shops. These were also situated along the strong streams in different sections of the county and rendered great assistance to Congress and the Council. Nicholas Lotz, Sebastian Levan and Daniel Brodhead were three extensive millers, and Valentine Eckert and Christian Lower were two influential blacksmiths who identified themselves prominently in the public affairs that related to the Revolution." (16)

Thus, we have pictured before us the panorama of a group of workers, emigrants from their Fatherland who became a tremendous asset in the development of the United States of America. It is fitting to say, "Hoch! Dreimal hoch!" for these individuals who included among their numbers such representative men as Christopher Ludwig, who

"built the greatest part of the Bake Houses for the use of the army;—ventur'd his Life on several occasions for the Cause;—had his property ruined by the Enemy;—expended his private fortune, earned by his industry before the war; and by his Assiduity and Vigilence in his Department saved great sums of money to the states;" and his compatriots, Ludwick, Schlosser, Engel, Hillegas, Hubbley, Barge, Rosz, Slough, Erwin, Schultz, Keuchlein, Arndt, Weitzel, Hasenclever, Meicher, Wagner, Graff, Kuhn, Smeiser, Eichelberger, Levan and Gehr, men who perhaps got 'heir English words "verhuddled" and pronounced "v's" like "w's" but who saved us from dropping our "haitchea" and putting them where they do not belong!

A CHALLENGE

Dear Sir:

I am greatly interested in the PENNSYLFAWNISCH DEITSCH ECK which you so ably present in the Morning Call. It is fine information for our own people, who need educating themselves. But, now for the outsiders! Fifty years ago I listened to speakers who lamented that the histories were written by New Englanders who stressed Puritan achievements but did not give proper consideration to the Pennsylvania Germans. I hear and read the same charges and complaints today. If some writer comes in among the sects of Pennsylvania he can easily pick up a few freakish customs and magnify them so as to create a very wrong and unfair impression of the people as a whole. After a history or an article is once published we can criticise it, point out its unfairness, etc., but that does not destroy the history. It will live on through the years.

We have highly educated Pennsylvania Germans many of them on the teaching staff of colleges and universities. Some of them are actually teachers of history. Why does not some one of them, or a group, get on the job and write a thorough, fair and complete history of the Pennsylvania Germans from the time of Tacitus or Julius Caesar down to the present? If that is done, it will put us off the defensive and will stop these misrepresentations. There is plenty of material, as you know, and more can readily be obtained. I am making this as a suggestion to you as the present spokesman for these people.—As for those who disparage the use of Pennsylvania German, we need but remember that the English is derived from a Teutonic dialect like our own.

Sincerely yours,

Kempton, Pa. James M. Fetherolf

12. Richards H. M. M., op. cit., pp. 446-447.
13. Richards, H. M. M., (Valley Forge and the Pennsylvania Germans), P. P. G. S., 1915, Vol. XXVI, pp. 6-8
14. Richards, H. M. M., op. cit. p. 447.
15. Montgomery, Morton L., Berks County in the Revolution from 1774-1783, 1894, pp. 174-180.
16. Montgomery, Morton L., op. cit p. 184.
17. Fitzpatrick, John C., The Spirit of the Revolution, 1924, p. 155.